

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00
DODE-00 EA-10 EUR-12 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, UN, GH
SUBJ: SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT -- MILITARY EXPENDITURE
REPORTING AND LIMITATION

REF: A) STATE 076583; B) STATE 097962; C) ACCRA 3166

1. LOCAL HOLIDAYS, A DISPUTED NATIONWIDE REFERENDUM AND
UNCERTAIN POLITICAL CONDITIONS HERE KEPT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS (MFA) FROM PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO AIDE-MEMOIRE
WE GAVE IT ON MARCH 30 CONTAINING TALKING POINTS LISTED
REF (A). ON RECEIPT REF (B) WE ARRANGED MEETING WITH VICTOR
GBEHO, SUPERVISING DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
AND CONFERENCES DIV., MFA, ON APRIL 20. HE MADE FOLLOWING
COMMENTS:

2. MILITARY EXPENDITURE REPORTING INSTRUMENT: GHANA
BELIEVES THIS IS A USEFUL FIRST STEP TOWARD REDUCING
MILITARY BUDGETS AND SUPPORTS PROPOSAL THAT VARIOUS STATES
PARTICIPATE IN PILOT STUDY. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS TO MFA
THAT AT PRESENT THIS CONCEPT IS SUPPORTED CHIEFLY BY
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WESTERN OR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES - USSR, EASTERN EUROPEANS,
PRC AND OTHER SOCIALIST STATES DO NOT SEEM TO BE INVOLVED.
THUS WHILE GHANA SUPPORTS PILOT STUDY, IT WILL PARTICIPATE
IN IT ONLY IF TWO BASIC CONDITIONS ARE MET:

(A) A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES MUST
BE INVOLVED; (B) OTHER WEST AFRICAN STATES MUST ALSO BE

INVOLVED AND MUST BE WILLING TO SUBMIT THEIR NATIONAL MILITARY EXPENDITURE DATA. (ON THIS POINT, GBEHO NOTED THAT SINCE WEST AFRICAN STATES ARE ARMED AGAINST POSSIBLE THREATS FROM THEIR NEIGHBORS, NONE OF THEM IS LIKELY TO REVEAL DATA UNLESS ALL ITS NEIGHBORS DO TOO. HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THIS WOULD HAPPEN.)

3. DESPITE THIS PESSIMISTIC NOTE, GBEHO SAID GHANA'S DELEGATION WANTS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH USUN TO EXPAND NUMBER OF STATES WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN PILOT STUDY. SINCE GBEHO IS LIKELY TO BE A MEMBER OF DELEGATION, WE URGE USUN TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM IF TIME PERMITS, AS RECOMMENDED REF (C).

4. GBEHO ALSO RAISED THREE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON BEHALF OF MFA. RATHER THAN TRYING TO RESPOND ON BASIS OF WIRELESS FILE AND PRESS REPORTS, WE SAID WE PREFERRED TO PUT THEM TO DEPT FOR AUTHORITATIVE ANSWERS. WE THEREFORE REQUEST AF/W TO DEVELOP REPLIES WHICH WE CAN TRANSMIT FORMALLY TO MFA WITHIN ONE WEEK.

5. FIRST QUESTION REFERS TO STATEMENT IN REF (A) THAT "MILITARY EXPENDITURE LIMITATION AGREEMENTS HOLD THE PROMISE OF RELASING RESOURCES FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT EVERYWHERE, AND WE EXPECT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD SHARE IN THESE BENEFITS." GBEHO
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RECALLED THAT IN COMMITTEE I LAST YEAR, US REP SPOKE TO THIS POINT BUT EXPLAINED THAT US ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY CONGRESS; THERE IS THUS NO AUTOMATIC OR FOOL-PROOF LINKAGE BETWEEN REDUCING MILITARY EXPENDITURES ON ONE HAND AND INCREASING ASSISTANCE LEVELS ON THE OTHER. IN SHORT, GBEHO WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER, IF WE DID SUCCEED IN REDUCING MILITARY SPENDING, WE REALLY WOULD INCREASE OUR AID TO THE THIRD WORLD. (IF THIS IS INDEED THE CASE, HE SAID, IT IS A VERY STRONG ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF THE MILITARY EXPENDITURE REPORTING INSTRUMENT.)

6. SECOND QUESTION INVOLVES ROLE OF NEUTRON BOMB IN DISARMAENT ISSUES. GBEHO ADMITTED GHANA OPPOSES PRODUCTION OR DEPLOYMENT OF BOMB BUT ASKED WHY, UNTIL RECENTLY AT LEAST, US WAS PUSHING SO HARD FOR BOMB WHILE AT THE SAME TIME STRESSING ITS COMMITMENT TO DISARMAMENT.

7. THIRD QUESTION IS SIMILAR TO ABOVE: WHAT ROLE DOES THE CRUISE MISSILE PLAY IN OUR DISARMAMENT STRATEGY?

8. WE RECOGNIZE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS LIE OUTSIDE AF/W'S IMMEDIATE KEN BUT HOPE IT CAN COORDINTE TIMELY

REPLIES. IF POSSIBLE, SHORT, ACCURATE, NON-TECHNICAL
DESCRIPTIONS OF NEUTRON BOMB AND CRUISE MISSILE SHOULD BE
INCLUDED IN ANSWERS.
SMITH

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